The pediment and frieze would serve as the characteristic of Greek architecture in contrast with Egyptian, which merely displayed architrave and cornice. Pediments were called by the Greeks *eagles*, because they were often ornamented with a representation of the king bird. The frieze meant literally the image-carrier; a frieze without ornament was, strictly speaking, an anomaly. Emblems were of rare occurrence in Greek architecture,—bacchanalian were the most common. With the Greeks *symmetry* was everything. All Doric friezes were ornamented with colour as well as sculpture, and in Greek works generally, the ornamental development was complete. Important, he said, is that symmetry or that decoration which arrests our sympathies and disposes us for elevated feelings; short-sighted are those who see nothing in the pursuit of the beautiful but idle pastime. When disposed to think lightly of those engaged on works of decoration, let it be remembered that Socrates was an image maker.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Plans for the new County Lunatic Asylum for Essex are about to be advertised for. The *Chelmsford Chronicle*, while admitting this to be the best course under present circumstances, suggests that as asylums are to be provided for every county, Government ought to obtain a model plan capable of contraction or expansion according to local requirements.——A new post-office is contemplated at Worcester. The Improvement Commissioners there are about to pull down a number of old buildings and open a new street leading from High-street to Birdport.——The new landing-slip on Carnarvon pier is nearly finished. It is 12 feet wide, and terminates with a flight of steps.—— The *Weston-Super-Mare Gazette* announces that improvements have just been commenced in the vicinity of Claremont. Almost the entire western face of the hill above Anchor-head is to be appropriated to building purposes, with terrace, crescents, and other forms of residence, all of a superior class, according to plans prepared by Mr. William Christie, architect. A drive is also to be cut through the woods above the town, on the south, and along this and the Channel-road a series of detached mansions are to be erected. ——A triple lancet east window in Riddings Church, Alfreton, has been filled with stained glass by Messrs. Pemberton, of Birmingham. ——The church at Waverdon, Bucks, is about to be rebuilt from designs by Mr. W. Butterfield, in the early English style, with stone, and covered in with lead. The contract is taken by Messrs. Mills and Son, builders, Stratford-on-Avon, who are taking down the old edifice. The cost of erection will be defrayed almost wholly by the vicar, the Rev. H. Burney.——The *Sheffield Times* states that the staple trade is fast leaving Sheffield. Want of capital and unions of workmen are regarded as chief causes. Nothing but the introduction of a new trade, it is thought, can save the town. The unions are still destroying tools and machinery, as they have for years been doing, and we know of one case where a firm of more than one generation's standing was broken up in disgust from this very cause, nearly three years since. The stupid and suicidal unionists therefore appear to be steadily and certainly destroying their own trade, and Sheffield is likely to afford a striking example of the malign influence of such *protective institutions*. ——A Hull paper says that there are lying in that town a piece of pine timber, of the length of 108 feet, and deals 34 inches wide.——At Newcastle on Tyne, experiments are being tried with the ordinary stand pipe and leather hose applied direct to the water-pipes without the intervention of fire engines. The pressure of the water is such that the stream is said to have played on the cornice of the pedestal of Earl Grey's Monument, a height of 120 feet. ——A close inspection of buildings supposed to be insufficient or old and ruinous is going on at Glasgow; and a great many proprietors have been summoned, and properties condemned,—the *old* sugar-house, lately gutted by fire, amongst the number. Wooden theatrical or other booths have also been ordered to be taken down, and the grain removed from a store.

ARCHITECTURAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

The committee have determined on issuing a series of sketches in lithography—say three parts in the year—each part containing five or more plates, and which, irrespective of their interest and value *per se*, will serve ultimately as illustrations of the Dictionary. A number of excellent collections have been opened to them for selection, including those of the Institute, the trustees of the Soane Museum, Mr. John Davies, Mr. T. L. Donaldson, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Garling, Mr. Heneker, Mr. James Lockyer, jun., Mr. D. Mocatta, Mr. Sidney Smirke, and others.

Towards the further advancement of this branch of the undertaking, a portfolio has been prepared to receive contributions of sketches, drawings, or details of existing buildings, viewed either as matters of history, decoration, design, or construction. Further, when the subscription allows of extended operations, the committee hope to undertake a continuation of the "Vitruvius Britannicus," containing some of the numerous good buildings neglected in the editions of Campbell, and Woolfe and Gandon, or erected since the addition to that work by Robinson. Towards this object, contributions from the authors of the edifices have been promised, and several of the collections placed at the disposal of the committee will be of material assistance.

Besides these illustrations, they propose to give a certain amount of letter-press to each subscriber of a guinea annually, and they have just now issued a prospectus containing the following selection from the subjects suggested to them for treatises by subscribers:—

An Analytical Index of Works on Architecture, &c.

Architectural Botany and the Geometrical Distribution of Foliage, Flowers, &c., with references to the specimens hitherto used for architectural purposes.

Bricks, Brickwork, and Terra Cotta, decorative and constructive.

Brunellesco, his Life and Works: a commencement of a Series of Biographies.

Campanili.

Cement, Concrete, Mortars, &c.

Chimneys, their Form and Construction.

Description and Delineation of the various modes of Construction which have been adopted in Structures built or faced with Squared Stones.

Domestic Architecture, classified according to Countries, and arranged in a connected and continuous series of periods.

Entasis of Columns and Spires, and other Optical Corrections in Architecture.

Foundations, Footings, and Foundation Walls.

Geometrical Stained Glass.

Mosaic Pavements.

Pediments, their Application and Construction.

"Polyphili Hypnerotomachia," by Fra Francesco Colonna, published in the year 1499. (To be translated.)

Rorickzer's Rules, followed in the fifteenth century, for constructing Pinnacles. (To be translated.)

Windows, as to Design, Aspect, and Proportion.

Some of these suggestions are accompanied by offers of authorship, others not: and one object of the committee is to obtain the further co-operation of friends in this respect. Materials connected with these subjects, however slight, are asked for, together with references to published works or articles.

It may be well to mention, that as the number of copies printed must be regulated by the number of members, the subscription list will be closed on the 1st of January, 1849.*

An Extraordinary Blast (says the *Jersey Times*), took place on Monday last at Vercelut, on the Government works. It is said to contain 276,000 solid feet of granite, making upwards of 20,000 tons. The blast was conducted under the superintendence of Mr. Heap, and no accident whatever occurred.

* The following is a list of local honorary secretaries already appointed:—Barnstaple, Mr. Butcher; Bath, Mr. James Wilson; Bridgewater, Mr. Knowles; Bristol, Mr. Pope; Darlington, Mr. Middleton; Derby, Mr. H. J. Stevens; Dublin, Mr. G. Papworth; Durham, Mr. Cory; Exeter, Mr. Hayward; Glasgow, Mr. James Wylson; Gloucester, Mr. Fullames; Hertford, Mr. T. Y. Kimpton; Huddersfield, Mr. Wallen; Ipswich, Mr. J. M. Clark; Lancaster, Mr. Edmund Sharpe; Leamington Priors, Mr. J. G. Jackson; Leeds, Mr. W. Reid Corson; Leicester, Mr. W. Parsons; Liverpool, Mr. J. A. Picton; Maidstone, Mr. Whichcord, jun.; Norwich, Mr. Kerr; Oswestry, Mr. R. Kyrke Penson; Plymouth, Mr. Wightwick; Preston, Mr. F. W. Tuach; Stamford, Mr. E. Browning; St. Neot's, Hunts, Mr. W. G. Habershon; Winchester, Mr. Owen B. Carter; and Worcester, Mr. Harvey Eginton.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A general court was held on Thursday, 23rd ult., at the Court-house, Greek-street, Soho-square. The Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle in the chair.

The Serpentine River.—In answer to a communication received from the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, it was agreed, on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, "That the court contribute a moiety of the sum of 300*l.* for completing the diversion of the sewage water from that part of the Ranelagh sewer known as the Serpentine river."

Various works, considered to be of urgency, were ordered to be carried into effect. The whole of these works being of pipes, will be completed at the rate of 4*s.* 8*d.* per foot; and if any general rearrangement of the drainage of the districts shall take place, the whole of the pipes may be removed uninjured.

The late Holborn and Finsbury Commissioners' Dinner Bills.—An application was made from Mr. Bateman, one of the late Commissioners of Holborn and Finsbury Sewers, in consequence of the sum of 90*l.* having been disallowed by the present commissioners for three months' dinner bills at the Albion Tavern. The application was made on the ground that the Act of Parliament allowed them a certain amount for their attendance as commissioners.

The application led to a conversation, in which it was urged that this court was justified in refusing their sanction to the appropriation of rate-payers' money to the feasting of commissioners. The Earl of Carlisle thought the determination of the court should be adhered to, but that any proper expenses would receive attention. The subject then dropped.

Captain Prior, of Kensington, attended the court to complain of the want of drainage in that locality. He was requested to put the nature of the complaint in writing, and transmit the same to the commissioners.

The State of Woolwich Marshes.—A long communication, transmitted to the Board of Health by Mr. R. Rugg, of Woolwich, was laid before the court by Mr. Chadwick. It set forth that the whole drainage of Woolwich marshes is very imperfect, and in many places they are without any drainage whatever. That the amount of sub-aquatic vegetation which was allowed year after year without removal, exhales a prodigious amount of miasmata, and the result was, that the whole district was scourged with attacks of ague and intermittent fever. It also stated that during the spring months of the present year the number of attacks from ague were upwards of 4,000, and several persons had four or five attacks, the average being two attacks, consequently there had been no less than 8,000 cases of ague amongst a population of 40,000 persons. So virulent had been the attacks, that the surgeon to the Odd Fellows' Lodge had during that period no less than 500 patients; and from 150 to 200 prisoners on board the *Justitia* convict hulk had been laid up at a time with the same disease, and nearly the whole of the workmen at the Royal Arsenal. The letter referred at length to the swamps, and the mists that hung over these marshes, frequently obscuring the view of objects scarcely half a mile distant, while other objects in a direction where the marshes did not intervene were clearly visible at the same time at a distance of seven miles. It also stated that every marsh was divided by a ditch that was never cleaned out; and that although the Commissioners of Sewers exacted heavy dues from the farmers, they paid little attention to the drainage, and their chief and only attention was directed to the preservation of the river wall. The communication concluded by a hope that the Commissioners of Sewers would take the whole district under their care. The communication was referred to the committee.

The Drainage of Peckham.—Mr. Phillips, the surveyor, presented a report on the drainage of 87 houses at Peckham, which had been completed efficiently, it was stated, by tubular drains carried along the backs of the houses. The report contained the following passages:—

"The houses had been built and inhabited for a number of years, but were in a most filthy condition from the want of drains: as the basement-floors, areas, back-yards, and gardens were overflowing with soil-drainage, by reason of the adjacent ground being saturated with it from the numerous cesspools, which were quite full and had therefore become useless. During the progress of the work, two, and in some cases three cesspools were found in and about each house, varying from 4 to 8 feet in diameter, 10 feet in depth, and containing, on an average, 12 cubic yards of soil: two of them measured 20 feet in length, 16 feet in width, and 10 feet in depth, and contained together 236 cubic yards of soil. One hundred and eighty-one cesspools were found altogether; the evaporating surface of which was equal to 10,000 feet, and the quantity of soil contained within them amounted to 2,384 cubic yards or single cart loads. The quantity of soil, instead of being bucketed out and carted away, in the usual manner, which would have cost at least one thousand pounds, had been washed away, with-

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